GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2754
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007
EYE DONATION
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain the number of blind persons who need eye transplantation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise;

(c) the details of the eyes donated and eye transplant operations taken during the last three years in the country, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any special schemes to facilitate donation of eyes by the people; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT.PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b): As per the survey 2001-04 conducted under the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB), there are around 12 million blind persons in the country, out of which around 1.5 million are corneal blind. A statement showing State- wise blind population is placed at ANNEXURE-I.

(c): A statement showing number of donated eyes (state-wise) for corneal transplantation operations during the last three years is placed at ANNEXURE-II.

(d) & (e): Information Education Communication (IEC) is an on-going activity under the National Programme for Control of Blindness. Awareness among masses about Eye donation is created through print and electronic media at central as well as state and district levels as a part of IEC activity. The most important event to promote eye donation under NPCB is observance of "National Eye Donation Fortnight" in the country from 25th August to 8th September every year with a view to accelerate educational and motivational efforts amongst the public to donate eyes and make it a family tradition. During the fortnight, the following major activities are undertaken:-

i) Awareness campaign on Eye donation through NGOs, Senior Citizen Groups, Youth Associations and Resident Welfare Associations etc.

ii) Involve teachers and school children in spreading the message on eye donation.

iii) Involve corporate sector to participate and sponsor activities like sponsoring grief counselor/ Medical Social Worker in major hospitals to motivate the family members of the deceased to donate eyes.

iv) Involve cable operators and cinema halls to flash messages on eye donation.

v) Involve influential persons such as politicians, sports persons, celebrities etc. to promote eye donation.

vi) Enhance collection of donated eyes through "Hospitals Retrieval Programme" in Hospitals.